

Whistler/Blackcomb Cloudraker

Surrey, British Columbia



The Cloudraker Skybridge's walkway of galvanized steel grating and open mesh side panels allow adventurers to see the valley floor below. And the Raven's Eye Cliff Walk provides an unencumbered view on the cantilevered platform jutting out from the West Ridge.

The finished product is a superb tourist experience thousands of feet above the resort that will last eternally. Hot-dip galvanizing was the obvious choice for this one-of-a-kind project because of its maintenance-free longevity, durability, and price. ■

Whistler Peak has long been known for its majestic views and ski resort. Now, thanks to an engineering marvel, visitors have a new way of experiencing the breathtaking landscape. In the summer of 2018, the Cloudraker Skybridge and Raven's Eye Cliff Walk, a 427-foot suspension bridge sitting 7,160 feet above the Whistler Village and a cantilevered viewing platform that extends 40 feet out over a cliff face to give 360° views to the valley below. It is one of the highest suspension bridges in the world!

Installation was done in the summer; however, even in mid-June, there was snow and howling wind on top of the peak, which added to the difficulty of the project. The main head frames of the suspension bridge, as well as the entire viewing platform were erected using a special lightweight, but mighty helicopter. This brought about its own unique challenges as the lift capacity of the helicopter, mountain top weather, and safety and crew communication tested the innovative team.

After erecting the head frame supports and tying the cables to the rock faces, the suspension bridge baskets were erected from one end and slid out on the cables by a custom-built trolley system. All of the steel in the bridge and viewing platform was hot-dip galvanized. Not only did the toughness and durability of the galvanized steel enable manhandling of the pieces during installation, but it also provides protection in the remote location unlike any other protective coating.

"In our 109 years of steel fabricating this was one of our most breath-taking installations ever." - Georgie Third, George Third & Son



Galvanizer
Ebco Metal Finishing LP

Fabricators
George Third & Son

Engineer
Morrison Hershfield

Most Distinguished